

Policy Brief February 2013

Putting Washington to Work, Rebuilding our Economy

Governor Inslee's top priority is to create and sustain a thriving economic climate that spurs job growth in every industry sector and every corner of Washington state. Our schools and businesses must work together to prepare students and workers for today's jobs and the jobs of the future. The comprehensive jobs plan builds on Washington's long tradition of innovation and harnesses our unique abilities to lead in the global economy.

WORKING WASHINGTON AGENDA

Educating a 21st century workforce

Improving the business climate and expanding our workforce

Advancing Washington's aerospace leadership

Health care reform: healthy people, healthy economy

Clean Energy, climate action and plentiful water

Clean Energy, Climate Action and Plentiful Water

Energy is the lifeblood of Washington's economy. Historically, affordable electricity has helped industries grow across our state. And today, clean, renewable energy is attracting new businesses and creating new jobs. Governor Inslee recognizes that to compete effectively with other states and countries, Washington must remain at the forefront of clean energy innovation and development.

Washington spends more than \$20 billion each year on energy. Shrinking our dependence on imported energy and boosting homegrown clean energy will strengthen and expand our economy. In fact, job creation rates in Washington's clean energy economy are well above those for other shrinking sectors of the economy — and clean energy jobs pay better. We must help our clean energy industries compete effectively in this growing global economy by attracting investments and leading the world in this technology.



Volatile gasoline prices, dependence on fossil fuels and climate change realities drive world demand for clean energy. Of the \$20 billion that Washingtonians spend on energy each year, more than \$15 billion goes to oil and gas companies for transportation fuels. We can lessen that economic impact by moving quickly to electrify our transportation system, taking advantage of clean and affordable electrical power. We will ensure that state investments in transportation contribute to clean energy and climate solutions while we generate jobs and save taxpayer dollars.

Governor Inslee proposes to invest state capital funds in the next biennium to support the development of clean energy solutions. By investing now, Washington will be better positioned to capture its share of these exciting new jobs.

Clean energy investments

We will help businesses across Washington develop and demonstrate technologies to produce and consume clean energy, cutting costs and growing jobs in the process.

These technologies will integrate clean, renewable energy into the grid through electrical energy storage and smart-grid solutions that can be applied by regional utilities.

We will also establish a Clean Energy Fund to leverage federal, utility and private investment in research, development, demonstration and early deployment of high-value, clean energy technologies. These technologies will increase Washington energy independence and enhance our competitiveness through exports to world markets.

Electric vehicles

Last year, Washington finished installation of electric vehicle chargers along Interstate 5 from British Columbia to Oregon — the first border-to-border, fast-charging network in the country. State investments in electric vehicle chargers have also spurred local investments to spark tourism and recreational activity along Highway 2. We will extend the EV fast-charging network across Interstate 90 to Spokane and Highway 101 to the outer coast, expanding consumer confidence for using electric vehicles throughout our state.

We can also leverage Washington's clean, low-cost hydropower and wind resources to lead the country in the move to vehicle electrification, and our local electrical utilities can be part of the solution. The Governor will direct state procurement of electric passenger vehicles, with other public and private entities, for a net savings of taxpayer dollars.

Biofuels

We can also create jobs in Washington by growing, processing, refining and using advanced biofuels at commercial scale. We will invest in the biofuels distribution infrastructure to make sure commercial biofuel blends are readily available at all major state ferry and state vehicle fueling centers. State investment in biofuels will support more production at Washington's biodiesel refineries and oilseed farms at costs below those for imported fuels.

We will support Washington State University's efforts to secure designation as a new Center of Excellence for Alternative Jet Fuels and the Environment. The state will contribute matching funds to the new center to help nurture partnerships among our research institutions and the agricultural, aviation and maritime industries. We will also provide funds to help maintain Washington's leadership position in aviation biofuels and support the development of key market co-products.

Clean transportation in Washington accounts for more than 8,500 direct-production jobs; the West Coast is forecast to experience a four-fold increase in clean transportation jobs by 2020. By investing in electric transportation and biofuels, we will ensure our state captures its share of these jobs.

Climate action

Washington has set greenhouse gas emission limits to stem the harm these emissions cause to people and the environment. Actions to reduce these levels offer the potential — beyond better health — to boost our energy independence and create good-paying jobs.

Governor Inslee has called on Washingtonians to step up to the responsibility of addressing climate change and to harness the economic opportunities offered by clean energy. As a first step, he has requested legislation to evaluate programs in other jurisdictions that relate to greenhouse gas emissions and to develop a strategy to achieve our state's emissions limits. The measure would set up a climate work group — representing the four legislative caucuses and the Governor's Office — to recommend actions to ensure that we achieve our greenhouse gas emission limits.



Yakima Basin water supply

Water in the Yakima River Basin is vital to Washington's agricultural economy, communities and businesses, and to fish and other wildlife. This region is a major contributor to Washington's \$40 billion food and agriculture industry, and reliable water supplies for irrigation are a critical requirement for these industries.

Governor Inslee has requested legislation (Senate Bill 5367 and House Bill 1414) to address the long-standing challenge of inadequate water supplies for agriculture, fish and population growth in the Yakima River Basin. After decades of conflict, consensus has been reached among federal, state, tribal and local governments, working with water users and environmental organizations, on a

solution — the Yakima River Integrated Water Management Plan.

Priority projects identified in the plan will restore habitat, construct fish passage facilities, divert power to support salmon migration, increase Lake Cle Elum storage, pump water into reservoirs to improve instream flows, enlarge Bumping Lake, construct a pipeline to connect Lake Keechelus and Lake Kachess, modify the Lake Kachess reservoir and create a groundwater infiltration system. The plan also calls for purchase of existing senior water rights to provide seed water for basin water banks. The legislation will be accompanied by \$23.6 million in capital funds to implement projects. This investment will help restore fisheries and meet agriculture, municipal and domestic needs in the basin. Completion of these projects in 2013–15 will generate more than 300 jobs and \$43.5 million in economic benefits.

Governor Inslee's priorities

- » Invest to develop clean energy solutions
- » Invest in clean energy and climate solutions for transportation
- » Extend the electric vehicle fast-charging network across Interstate 90 and Highway 101
- » Support increased production at the state's biodiesel refineries and oilseed farms
- » Establish a new Center of Excellence Alternative Jet Fuels and Environment at Washington State University
- » Identify actions to achieve our greenhouse gas emissions limits
- » Implement the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Management Plan